

SENATE—Monday, March 6, 2000

The Senate met at 12:02 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, sovereign of our beloved Nation and gracious Lord of our lives, in the ongoing schedule of Senate business, we tend to lose one of the most precious gifts You offer us: a sense of expectancy. As we begin this new week, help us to expect great things from You and to attempt great things for You. We will perform the same old duties differently because You will have made us different people filled with Your love, joy, peace, and patience. We commit to You the challenges and opportunities of the week ahead, expecting Your surprises—serendipities of Your interventions—to work things out. Give us freedom to cooperate with You. Give us a positive attitude towards life because we know You will maximize our efforts, assist us when dealing with difficult people, and help us to care for those in need. Bring on life, Lord; filled with Your spirit, we are expecting wonderful things to happen. In Your all-powerful name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Jeff Sessions, a Senator from the State of Alabama, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the President pro tempore.

THANKING THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE AND THE CHAPLAIN

Mr. LOTT. We thank you for the job you do as the President pro tempore and the fact that you keep us on time. "In time and on time," that is the motto for STROM THURMOND. We thank the Chaplain for his beautiful prayer as always.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Today, the Senate will be conducting a period of morning business in order to allow Senators to

make statements and introduce legislation.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

I now ask unanimous consent that the period of morning business be extended until 5 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. As announced last week, there will be no rollcall votes in today's session. In addition, as a reminder to all Members, rollcall votes may begin as early as 5 p.m. on Tuesday. Those votes may be in relation to any pending judicial nominations on the Executive Calendar. For the remainder of the week, the Senate may consider further nominations on the calendar as well as the FAA reauthorization conference report and the export administration bill.

This is the final week of Senate business prior to next week's recess, of course, and I would encourage my colleagues to remain available throughout this week for votes. They will occur each day and very likely could go into the evening, particularly on Wednesday and Thursday. Of course, we have a number of Senators who are back in their respective States today and tomorrow because we have some 13 or 15 States that are having caucuses or primaries on Tuesday, and a number of our colleagues will be prepared to vote early in their respective States tomorrow and then be here by 5 o'clock for the recorded vote.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today we observe and celebrate a milestone in the life of one of our most respected colleagues. On Saturday, March 4, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD became the third longest-serving Senator in the history of this august body—surpassing the service of the venerable and beloved John Stennis of my State, who served 41 years and 2 months.

This November, Senator BYRD will surpass the service of Senator Carl Hayden which will mean that we will be novices working alongside two of the longest-serving Senators in history. Both of them are here with us now—STROM THURMOND and ROBERT BYRD. Just think about that. They will be the top two in history in tenure, and we will be serving with both of them.

It is more than about tenure, however, when you talk about STROM THURMOND or ROBERT C. BYRD. In the

case of Senator BYRD, in his 41-plus years, colleagues have placed their trust in him to hold the highest offices in this institution. He was among those who were elected to the leadership positions but also at the committee level. He has been both the majority leader and the minority leader; he has been President pro tempore; and he has chaired our Committee on Appropriations. Today he is the ranking Democrat on that very important committee.

What he has brought to those positions has been more than hard work and high skills. He has brought a passion for procedures, an insistence upon order. On occasion, he has reminded me what the rules are or what order requires. It is always intended to be helpful because he believes that the institution itself is more important than any one Senator.

On occasion, he has regaled the Senate with a discourse on antiquity and, more specifically, the history of Greece and Rome and, of course, the Roman Senate. Yet when Senator BYRD speaks, Senators actually come out of the Cloakroom and our offices and listen, enthralled, to the history that he knows and the quotes that he gives from memory. He has inspired us many times both in the antiquity that he talks about and also the very great personal stories that he tells and the quotations. I remember he had a quote when I had a grandson born a year and a half ago about the beauty of being a grandparent, and it was just one of the most beautiful things I have ever heard on the floor of the Senate, maybe not so much as to who had said it, or how he was saying it, but who he was saying it about. He did a beautiful job.

He speaks of great historic events and he quotes from the Bible. And yet he has spoken personally, humanly, about the wonders of life, and even to being the owner of a wonderful dog named Billy, in such a way that has brought tears to our eyes. Having seen "My Dog, Skip" just this past weekend, I know sometimes the beauty of an animal or dog in your family will bring tears quicker than anything perhaps.

In today's world, where anything older than a decade is considered ancient, his knowledge of the classical world is truly extraordinary, and his insistence that its somber lessons are relevant to our own times is truly sobering.

In seasons of turmoil, it is the Senate's role to give the Nation the reassurance of stability and endurance. That is what the framers of our Constitution intended when they devised